

From: (b) (6)  
 To: [Shewmake, Kenneth](#)  
 Cc: [Mekeel, Edward](#); [Pereira, Stephen](#)  
 Subject: Re: Fruitdale and Lane Plating  
 Date: Thursday, November 15, 2018 1:32:32 PM

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Thank you for all the answers!

Welp, the wastewater plant seems like the most likely cause of the smell. Atmos and the city never give an explanation, so I just keep asking different sources.

My friend's rash is baffling every doctor he sees and he's seen half a dozen. I was really hoping this might be a clue he could bring to the doctors before the damage is permanent.

I will take all this to our Neighborhood Association meeting. And we're every first Thursday of the month, so if you do have news for Fruitdale or even if you don't, I'm sure my neighbors would have questions and welcome your presence. Fruitdale Neighborhood Association is south of Illinois, north of 12, west of the 45 and east of Bonnie View, so our edge is about a mile from Lane Plating.

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On Thu, Nov 15, 2018 at 11:26 AM Shewmake, Kenneth <[shewmake.kenneth@epa.gov](mailto:shewmake.kenneth@epa.gov)> wrote:

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I provided a brief answer to your questions in the red text below.

\* We are deep in pre-planning for a March planting of a two acre urban garden. Many of the residents already plant food and plan to replant in spring. Most of the gardens have been harvested. Is this safe?

It is very unlikely that contamination from Lane plating could travel that far and in that direction. We are investigating runoff from the site to the small creeks in the area. These creeks flow to the east towards the Trinity River, and the river is flowing to the south. I see no reason to worry about food from your garden

\* While we weren't considering using the wells on the property, I have heard that some residents do and there is a well almost every two acres. We have two standing, open wells on our single acre. Are there any precautions we should take? I would be interested in knowing the location of these wells, and about any wells near the site that are used for drinking water. If the wells are in the direction that ground water travels and are close enough to the site, we may want to sample them. We don't know a lot about groundwater near the site at this time. We are planning on sampling wells on the site this winter and we are also installing more monitoring wells in the area. If the groundwater on-site is contaminated, we will look at the direction groundwater travels and try to determine the areas where groundwater should not be used. Some county governments provide free testing of well water. You might want to check into this.

\* I know you said city water is safe, but since we are close to the contaminated soil, should we avoid drinking water from hoses or outdoor pipes? What about tap water? The tap water is tested by the city of Dallas and they would notify you if there was an issue. The hoses

should not be impacted, but not all hoses are made from food grade plastics.

\* I have also noticed a "gas leak" smell outside. Not always, but every few days. Neighbors have learned to ignore it. Atmos says it's not them but also has no explanation. We're just under 3 miles south of the wastewater plant and assumed that was it. If you got an answer for that, even if it's not related to Lane Plating, I'd greatly appreciate it. **You could be smelling hydrogen sulfide gas that is common near waste water treatment plants. It can be harmful in high concentrations, but you would have a very strong odor if you had high concentrations. The smell from a gas leak is slightly different. There have been some gas leaks in the Dallas area recently, and you want to make sure you do not have a natural gas leak.**

\* Final random question, completely unrelated: We have a terrifying amount of dead animals illegally dumped between Dowdy Ferry and Bonnie View. Within a mile of my home, I call 311 at few times a month. There is an activist who finds at least one a day from Teagarden to Bonnie View. Does this affect our health? It has certainly affected his as he has a horrible rash on his feet and legs to the point of not being able to walk until he took a month long break. I gave him information from last night in case that rash is from exposure to something in Trinity River or closer to us. He walks through all the water and mud every day to find these animals. **The animal carcass dumping is a city or county issue and it is not something the EPA normally gets involved with. I am sorry that this is happening near your home. The rash could be caused by a lot of things. It could be poison ivy or an allergic reaction.**

You may have answered some of these questions last night but I was late, so forgive the need to repeat. I will also be filling out the form for my husband and I who have been suffering skin rashes since we moved here that resembled a google search of chromium exposure. (Side note: please help us not google too much over the next few months...wow....that was not a good idea). **Our goal is to identify contamination at the site and then determine where it has moved off the site. We will then evaluate health risk from the site and try to eliminate future risk. We cannot do anything about exposures that happened in the past. We will notify the community if we find high concentrations that could be an immediate risk to human health. So far, the only high concentrations we have found are on site near the electroplating building.**

Kenneth Shewmake

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**From:** Mekeel, Edward  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 15, 2018 7:24 AM  
**To:** Shewmake, Kenneth <[shewmake.kenneth@epa.gov](mailto:shewmake.kenneth@epa.gov)>; Pereira, Stephen <[pereira.stephen@epa.gov](mailto:pereira.stephen@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Fruitdale and Lane Plating

Another request. Please assist. I understand some of these questions don't apply to us. If you don't want to answer directly, I can...

Ed Mekeel III

Community Involvement Coordinator

Resources Revitalization Branch, Superfund Division

Environmental Protection Agency, Region VI

Phone: 214-665-2252

**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 14, 2018 4:24 PM  
**To:** Mekeel, Edward <[mekeel.edward@epa.gov](mailto:mekeel.edward@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fruitdale and Lane Plating

Thank you for the meeting last night. I have a few questions in regards to Fruitdale, about 3 miles north east (between Lane Plating and Joppa).

\* We are deep in pre-planning for a March planting of a two acre urban garden. Many of the residents already plant food and plan to replant in spring. Most of the gardens have been harvested. Is this safe?

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Fruitdale Resident

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